

LEND-LEASE ¹

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The Representative of the French National Committee to the American Military Representative

COMITE NATIONAL FRANÇAIS

Le Commissaire National
aux Affaires Étrangères

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PF/BB

3RD SEPTEMBER 1942

The French National Committee sets forth below its understanding of the principles governing the provision of reciprocal aid by the United States of America to Fighting France and by Fighting France to the United States.

1. The United States of America will continue to supply Fighting France with such defense articles, defense services and defense information as the President shall authorize to be transferred or provided.

2. Fighting France will continue to contribute to the defense of the United States of America and the strengthening thereof and will provide such articles, services, facilities or information as it may be in a position to supply.

3. The fundamental principle to be followed in providing such aid is that the war production and war resources of Fighting France and of the United States of America should be used by the armed forces of each in the ways which most effectively utilize available materials, manpower, production facilities and shipping space. While each retains the right of final decision in the light of its own potentialities and responsibilities, decisions as to the most effective use of resources shall so far as possible be made in common, pursuant to common plans for winning the war.

4. As to financing the provision of such aid within the fields mentioned below, it is the Committee's understanding that the general principle to be

¹ See also lend-lease settlement agreements of May 28, 1946 (TIAS 1928, *post*, p. 1126); Feb. 27, 1948 (TIAS 1930, *post*, p. 1245); Mar. 14, 1949 (TIAS 1935 and 1936, *post*, pp. 1300 and 1304); and Jan. 30, 1958 (9 UST 67; TIAS 3979).

applied to the point at which the common war effort is most effective is that as large a portion as possible of the articles and services to be provided by each to the other shall be in the form of reciprocal aid.

It is accordingly the Committee's understanding that the United States Government will provide in accordance with the Act of March 11, 1941,² the share of its war production made available to Fighting France. Fighting France will provide on the same terms and as reciprocal aid so much of its war production made available to the United States as it authorizes in accordance with the principles enunciated in the letter.

5. Within territories under the control of Fighting France or within the same theater of operations, the National Committee will provide the United States or its armed forces with the following types of assistance as such reciprocal aid when it is found that they can most effectively be procured in territory under the control of Fighting France.

(A). Military equipment, munitions and military and naval stores.

(B). Other supplies, materials, facilities and services for the United States forces except for the pay and allowances of such forces, administrative expenses and such local purchases as its official establishments may make other than through the official establishments of Fighting France as specified in paragraph 6.

(C). Supplies, materials and services except for the wages and salaries of United States citizens needed in the construction of military projects, tasks and similar capital works required for the common war effort in territory under the control of Fighting France or in the same theater of operations to the extent that such territory is the most practicable source of supply.

6. The practical application of the principles formulated in the letter including the procedure by which requests for aid are made and acted upon shall be worked out by agreement as occasion may require, through the appropriate military or civilian administrative authorities. Requests by the United States forces for such aid will be presented by their duly authorized authorities to official agencies of Fighting France which will be designated or established in the areas where United States forces are located for the purpose of facilitating the provision of reciprocal aid.

7. It is the Committee's understanding that all such aid accepted by the President of the United States or his authorized representatives from Fighting France will be received as a benefit to the United States under the Act of March 11, 1941. In so far as circumstances will permit, appropriate record of aid received under this arrangement, except for miscellaneous facilities and services, will be kept by each.

² 55 Stat. 31.

If the Government of the United States concurs in the foregoing, the present note and a reply to that effect will be regarded as placing on record the understanding in this matter./.

For the French National Committee
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*The American Military Representative to the Representative of the
French National Committee*

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY

The Government of the United States of America agrees with the understanding of the National Committee as expressed in the English text of the Committee's note of today's date concerning the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by Fighting France to the Armed Forces of the United States of America and in accordance with the suggestion contained therein. That note and this reply will be regarded as placing on record the understanding in this matter.

LONDON, *September 3, 1942*

J. E. D.